December 28, 2023 – January 3, 2024 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

# THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 52 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 138, No. 52

The Sumpter Township Police Department recently extended condolences to the family of former township Chief of Police Clinton Brown, Jr.

*See page 5.*

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 52

The historic two-story, red brick house at the corner of Warren and Morton Taylor roads in was demolished last week.

*See page 3.*

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 76, No. 52

Members of the Inkster and Dearborn Heights police departments joined forces earlier this month with a local Target store for a special shopping trip.

*See page 6.*

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 52

The Department of Public Works in Northville Township was recently recognized by township officials during Water and Wastewater Professional Workforce Week.

*See page 2.*

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 23, No. 52

Local pickleball enthusiast Mark Malcolm is continuing his efforts to construct public courts for the game at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex in Plymouth.

*See page 4.*

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 138, No. 52

Operators of the BP gas station on Middlebelt Road in Romulus have until Jan. 8 to respond to a notice from the office of State Attorney General Dana Nessel.

*See page 5.*

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 52

Retiring Wayne Building and Engineering Director Mike Buiten and Department of Public Works Assistant Director Ed Queen were honored last week.

*See page 6.*

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 52

Wayne, Westland, Garden City, and Inkster have each been awarded $192,000 requested from the federal government to join the Safe Streets for All plan.

**See page 6.**

## Romulus is named as ecities 'Honored Community'

The City of Romulus has been named a 2023 eCities Honored Community for successes and efforts in contributing to growth in Michigan. The designation was given as part of the annual eCities study, conducted by iLabs, the University of Michigan-Dearborn Office of Engagement and Impact. The four other honored communities are the cities of Eastpointe, Lansing, Royal Oak, and the Charter Township of Delta.

"The recognition by UM's iLabs is validation that our team and city are on the right track. Where we have received four and five star certifications prior, the increased distinction as an "honored community" is a reaffirming compliment," said Romulus Mayor Robert A. McCraight.

> *"The recognition by UM's iLabs is validation that our team and city are on the right track.*

"Creative ideas and forward thinking will help the City of Romulus continue to grow and realize the goals and expectations that were set in 1970 when Romulus first became a city over 50 years ago. A recent visioning project that was undertaken in 2022 clearly indicated the residents of Romulus wanted us to capitalize on our strategic location, and continue to focus on developing a sustainable market for economic growth that will attract additional stakeholders and continue to improve the quality of life for our residents and visitors alike," McCraight added.

The eCities study analyzed publicly available data from 277 communities in 54 counties of Michigan. Researchers focused on the five-year changes in property values, community assets, and tax rates, which can demonstrate the growth, investments, and cost of doing business within the community. For example, during the five-year period of 2018-2022, these communities increased their capital assets by an average of 3.42 percent per year by investments such as park and road improvements, new police and fire equipment, and water system enhancements. Further, these places are home to 87 percent of Michigan real commercial property and have 64 percent of the total state property value, according to iLabs research.

Communities that have seen the strongest growth in business development over the past five years, while controlling the costs of doing business in town, are designated as five- and four-star communities. Additionally, in

See **Romulus,** page 5

## Coolest event ever…

## 2024 Plymouth Ice Festival set for downtown Feb. 2, 3, and 4

One of the most highly anticipated events of the year, the 2024 Plymouth Ice Festival, presented by Michigan First Credit Union, is set to transform downtown Plymouth into a winter wonderland, organizers said. This year, Michigan First Credit Union will be the presenting sponsor of the event which annually draws nearly 20,000 visitors into downtown Plymouth.

Highlights of the event this year will feature the stars of the event, the spectacular ice sculptures. Producer James Gietzen of JAG Entertainment said smaller sculptures will be displayed at local businesses while the larger artworks will be installed at Kellogg Park.

Again this year, the Ice Throne is expected to be the setting for hundreds of family photos. Visitors will feel like Ice Festival royalty as they take a seat atop the unique Ice Throne. This activity has been a tradition for many families, as they return for that picture every year, Gietzen said.

Another traditional attraction at the festival will be the Hot Spot located in The Gathering across from Kellogg Park. Each year, Ehlers Heating and Cooling provides the warmth at the site which features local vendors, businesses, product demonstrations, a sitting area to allow for a respite from sculpture viewing. The Hot Spot is open during official hours of the festival.

Returning this year is the popular Petting Farm, also presented by Michigan First Credit Union.

Carousel Acres will be offering a hands-on experience with horses, donkeys, goats, sheep, an alpaca and even a baby calf. This activity is a top attraction for children, or those young at heart. This year, the Petting Farm will also feature pony rides. The Petting Farm will be open from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

And back by popular demand is the Tubing Run. The Plymouth Ice Festival tubing run features more than 100 feet of tubing excitement and fun for the whole family, Gietzen said. The Tubing Run will be open from 6 until 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2; from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 and from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4.

Another traditional attraction at the annual event will be the Party Lot and Ice Bar located at E.G. Nicks restaurant located at 500 Forest Ave. The Ice Bar in front of the popular restaurant will be open all three days of the festival. The Party Lot in the back parking lot will feature music and dancing from Ava James and The Rumors on Friday, Feb. 3 and music from Power Play Detroit on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Festival visitors usually can't resist the fresh roasted almonds, elephant ears and mini donuts available at the food booths and wagons. The event also features a Polish food booth inside the Hotspot warming station. In addition, all the restaurants in the downtown area will be offering some of their best menu items during the festival.

The popular Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Bingo game will also return this year. Visitors can stop in participating businesses and collect enough stickers to get a bingo on their playing card which then makes them eligible for a special prize from The Plymouth DDA.

This year, the Plymouth Ice Festival is set for 5 until 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3 and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4.

For more information, visit www.plymouthicefest.com or on social media @PlymouthIce Festival.

# Northville

## Plan for 'Gateway Project' presented to council

Representatives from OHM Advisors presented the final concept plan for the Ford Field Park Accessible Gateway project to city council members during a recent meeting.

The representatives requested input from the council members regarding the entrance which is proposed to be constructed north of the gateway plaza with brick pillars and wrought-iron fencing along the Hutton Street sidewalk. The Americans With Disabilities compliant sidewalk will lead from the plaza overlook to the ramp entrance.

Council members recommended using a less expensive gateway feature then the obelisk which was priced at $75,000 and less expensive fencing. Council members also noted that stadium seating is buried under the plaza location and helps stabilize the banked area. The next step in the process will be finalizing the design and using engineering services to prepare a bid for project construction, officials said.

Council members approved a Consultant Services Agreement with OHM for $91,146 for engineering and bidding support for the Ford Field Accessible Gateway and Bank Stabilization Project and up to $16,000 was allocated for subconsultant fees for project engineering.

> *Council members recommended using a less expensive gateway feature then the obelisk which was priced at $75,000.*

During the public comment segment of the agenda, resident Nancy Darga told the council members that she had worked with the Ford Field team for two years. She said her concerns are that the proposed pillars need lights that cast down onto the sidewalk; multiple outlooks are expensive to maintain; the obelisk looks like "a bird cage - perhaps the clock from the park could be used instead." As a licensed landscape architect, she noted that the park must have four-season interest, which includes evergreens.

Resident John Arrowsmith, however, said he felt it was "fantastic to see the gateway plaza come to life - with the classy design using wrought iron and brick. It takes the beauty of Northville and extends it further," he said. Noting the park is the start of the future riverwalk, he said the look and feel of the riverwalk is important and should be consistent along the route.

He said drainage at the new walkway needs to be well managed to prevent standing water in the park below.

## Wet work

The Department of Public Works in Northville Township was recently recognized by township officials during Water and Wastewater Professional Workforce Week earlier this month. The recognition was part of the statewide effort to acknowledge the crucial role of water in the well-being of all state residents. In a statement posted on social media, township officials said, "We acknowledge the crucial role of water in our lives and express our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated professionals who ensure our water remains a precious resource for generations to come. Our DPW performs tasks such as water and sewer maintenance, water testing and education to ensure we have safe, reliable public water and sewer service."

## Taking the lead

Corey Nicoloff has been named as operations leader for the Northville Township Public Works Department. Nicoloff, who started with the department in 2013, has earned an S-1 license and is a graduate of Michigan Public Service Institute. In this newly-defined role, Nicoloff will spearhead the township public works team, overseeing the execution of assigned responsibilities. As operations leader, he will assist in planning, coordinating and assigning duties for the day-to-day operations, ensuring a seamless and efficient workflow, according to township officials.

## Park trail marking new under way

Northville officials welcomed representatives from the Rock Solid Trail Contracting, LLC. team to Legacy Park earlier this month.

The survey and mapping for the first phase of trail construction is now under way, officials said and as part of this process, some trees may be marked with orange and red/white striped flags. These flags are for geographical reference and do not indicate that any trees will be removed, officials said.

Visitors have removed some flags from trees which delays the trail planning effort. Officials have requested that visitors leave the flags in place as they are markers for pathway development in the park. Construction of the paths and trail is expected to begin this spring and be complete in August, according to officials.

To subscribe to The Eagle visit www.associatednewspapers.net.

Senior Services

Wayne County Needs Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Meals on wheels relies on hundreds of volunteers to package and deliver meals to eligible individuals in 34 communities of western wayne county and downriver. And right now the program needs 200 more volunteers.

SCAN FOR VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

or visit our website

waynecounty.com/svs

For more information on being a volunteer, please call 734-326-5202.

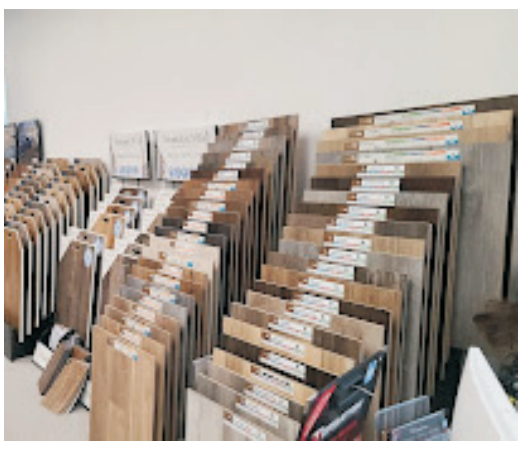
TOWN CENTER CARPET & FLOORS

Plymouth's Hometown Flooring Experts

*WOW — 5 star service and 5 star quality! We got Luxury Vinyl Planing in our whole downstairs and bathrooms, and carpet on stairs and hallway and bedrooms. Ali was kind, caring and attentive at every step in the process, and always answered all of my questions! Install staff were kind and efficient, and all edges look clean and professional. Competitive pricing. I could not be happier with the high quality floors, and the care and service that Ali shows to his customer is 2nd to non. Thank you Ali and team for a great experience!!!*
*~ Kelly, Town Center Carpet & Floors customer*

Town Center Carpet & Floors is here to plan and fulfill with exceptional precision your carpet, tile hardwood or LVT flooring projects.

- Free Consultation
- Sales and Installation
- Financing Available
- Home Advisor Top Rated



989 Ann Arbor Rd. W. Plymouth, MI 48170 • 734-392-7129

# CANTON

# Ford Road reconstruction project set to begin

Drivers using Ford Road next year will find a long-sought construction effort under way in response to the exceptional number of reported vehicle crashes along the highly trafficked roadway.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials revealed the construction timeline of the recently approved project which will include the temporary widening along Ford Road. Officials said the construction was prompted by the number of crashes at Ford Road intersections which exceed the Michigan average by as much as 186 percent in some areas. While officials refused to set an exact date for construction to begin, they announced the project would begin "in early 2024."

"During peak driving times, this heavily travelled road registers some 40,000+ vehicles, entering and exiting businesses along the corridor. All of this activity creates potential conflict points that lead to crashes and significant travel delays," MDOT officials said in a prepared announcement of the plan.

Data for a three-year period from July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2019, at several intersections, reported crashes at Lilley Road and Ford at 262 percent over average and at 186 percent over average at Ford and Canton Center Road. The data was prepared by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

> *Canton Township officials have been seeking a better traffic solution along Ford Road since 2012 .*

State officials said the 2.27 mile section of Ford Road will be reconstructed and both eastbound and westbound Ford Road traffic will be separated by a boulevard with at least two through lanes in each direction. The center turn lane will be eliminated and crossovers will be added. There will be no left turns allowed off Ford Road when the reconstruction is complete. Rather, several dedicated passenger vehicle/truck turnarounds will be added, officials said, and traffic signals will be added.

In addition, continuous ADA-certified sidewalks will be constructed on both sides of the road.

Canton Township officials have been seeking a better traffic solution along Ford Road since 2012 when they hosted the first public meeting for the community to make the case for safety improvements on the road. The Traffic and Environmental Study highlighted crash data, noise and other factors in the area bordered by Sheldon, Warren, Lotz, and Cherry Hill roads, officials said.

## Kettle campaign

Members of the Canton Police Department were on the job throughout the community recently as they volunteered to help the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. The 2023 Red Kettle goal has been set at $7.9 million for Metro Detroit. The theme of the effort this year, Love Beyond Christmas, is a reminder, officials said, of the help needed by the most vulnerable all year long. The Christmas Red Kettle Campaign provides shelter, meals and gifts to the less fortunate during the holiday season through the volunteer efforts like those of the Canton Township officers, officials said. The bell ringing campaign ended on Christmas Eve.

# Warren Road 'Underground Railroad' house demolished

The historic two-story, red brick house at the corner of Warren and Morton Taylor roads in Canton Township was demolished last week and the last of the remains hauled from the site.

The 150-year-old home was a popular topic with Civil War history fans who suggested the house was a stop along the Underground Railroad used by runaway slaves fleeing the southern states and attempting to get to Canada.

Circumstantial evidence of the home as part of the Underground Railroad has been discovered by Canton Township historian David Curtis who believes the home was a stop for slaves but, even after more than 200 hours of research, notes the claim cannot be proven by hard evidence.

According to Realtor Pat Ryan, the 1,652-square-foot home and the 3 acres of surrounding green space was sold in January. Ryan said he does not know what the new owner plans to do with the property.


YOUR HOMETOWN BUILDER
We are builders
NEW CUSTOM HOMES — CUSTOM FLOOR PLANS
Expert Craftsmanship · Quality in Every Detail
Our work, from beautiful new custom homes to seamless additions, exemplifies our commitment to world-class craftsmanship.

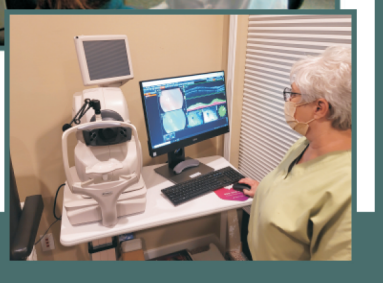
MIKE MILLER
BUILDING COMPANY
(248) 797-7096 mike@mikemillerbuilding.com
www.mikemillerbuilding.com
Builder of fine custom homes and additions since 1991.

Special limited hours - Call for an appointment

DON'T PUT IT OFF..COME IN AND SEE US.

Dr. Glenn M. Young - Optometrist
At Forest Place Optical Dr. Young stresses the Doctor-Patient relationship.
Your appointment will include a Vision Exam and an Eye Health Evaluation.
You will be screened for Glaucoma and Cataracts. Dr. Young will also look at the health of your Optic Nerve, Retina and Macula.
If a prescription is needed, we want to give you the most clear, comfortable vision for your daily tasks.

forest place optical
• Exams • Glasses • Contacts



550 Forest Ave, #12 · Plymouth, MI 48170
734-455-3340
Convenient parking!
Servicing Plymouth for over 25 years
M & W 9:30am-7pm
T, TH, F 9:30am-6pm
Sat 9am-2pm
www.forestplaceoptical.com

# Plymouth

## Donations for planned pickleball project sought

Local pickleball enthusiast Mark Malcolm is continuing his efforts to construct public courts for the game at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex in Plymouth (PARC).

Malcolm, vice-president of PARC, recently launched a fundraising campaign to generate the matching funds necessary for a state grant to help fund the construction of four outdoor courts on property already owned by PARC.

Land for the courts has already been donated by PARC and by Dec. 16, $37,935 had been donated toward the $50,000 needed to match the state funding.

In a recent social media post, Malcolm explained that only about $12,000 is still needed to reach the $50,000 goal before the state deadline of Jan. 14.

"As a reminder, the state's $50,000 matching grant will happen (and the courts will be built) only if the funding campaign makes it all the way to $50,000. Including the value of the land being provided free of charge by non-profit PARC, plus the state's potential grant, Plus $50,000 of pledges by PARC and others to reduce the needed public funding, this is effectively a $500,000 project available at a cost of only $50,000.

"There will never be a better opportunity for pickleball courts in Plymouth," Malcolm posted.

He added that the project is at a critical junction and thanked all those who had already pledged to support the project financially.

He urged those individuals who play the sport to consider making a pledge to ensure the recreational fields could be constructed in the community.

He added that any amount would be appreciated and that pledges of $100 or more would be recognized on a donor plaque installed at the proposed courts.

"More details on the project are available - and a pledge can be made simply and quickly - by visiting patronicity.com/plymouthpickleball. Questions can be directed to me (threem1@comcast.net)," Malcolm concluded his post.

### Miracle workers

Officers from both the Plymouth Township and Plymouth police departments again participated in their annual "No Shave November" Community Outreach Fundraiser this year. Each member of the department was given the opportunity to have a beard during November / December for a charitable donation. The donations were collected from officers and staff from both departments. Township Police Chief James Knittel, City Chief Al Cox and officers from each department presented the check to The Miracle League of Plymouth Executive Director Stacey Diefenbach for $2,150. The donation will be used for field renovations, officials said. The Plymouth Township Police Department is also accepting gently used baseball equipment at the front desk of the station. The donated baseball equipment will be given to The Miracle League of Plymouth for use by players at the field.

## Church choir member suffers burns

The final performance of "The Glory of Christmas" concert at NorthRidge Church earlier this month left a woman hospitalized with burns over 30 percent of her body, officials said.

According to fire department reports, first responders were called to the church at about 9 p.m. Dec. 7 to treat a woman severely burned when her choir robe caught fire during a performance. Officials said a misplaced candle ignited the choir robe when the woman brushed against the flame. The victim remains hospitalized with "pretty significant burn injuries" after being transported to a University of Michigan facility.

Choir members surrounding the woman suffered some minor burns as she attempted to leave the crowded riser as the robe erupted into flames. Church security staff members responded to extinguish the flames as the township fire department was enroute. The final show in the 31-year season of the event continued after the woman was transported by Plymouth Township fire personnel.

The show, which required a permit and inspection by fire officials, included multiple special effects with the full choir and orchestra, dancers, flying angels and live animals.

To subscribe to The Eagle visit www.associatednewspapers.net.

MENTION THIS AD GET $10 OFF

Full Service Salon & Spa

- Purely Pro Cosmetics
- Talika Specific Beauty Treatments
- Dermalogica Skin Care Systems
- Moroccan Oil Conditioning
- Keune Products
- European Facials
- Full Waxing Services

Jessie Simcheck Owner & Stylist

Affordable Elegance

Salon Tré Bella V

105 N. Center Street · Northville · (248) 305-9850

trebellav@gmail.com

HAMERINK DENTAL

PERSONALIZED DENTAL CARE

John D. Hamerink, M.S., D.D.S

Howard A. Hamerink, DDS

159 South Harvey
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 455-8686

Monday 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tuesday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

www.HamerinkDental.com


## Classified

TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD CALL 734-467-1900

### 59. Auctions

**PUBLIC AUCTION**
**MARTIN'S TOWING**
**17180 DIX TOLEDO RD**
**BROWNSTOWN,**
**MI 48193**
**JANUARY 3, 2024**
**10:00 AM**

2005 CHEVROLET
1GNDT13S652142156
2014 NISSAN
1N4AL3AP4EC173315
2007 CHEVROLET
1GNFK16357J366365
2013 CHRYSLER
2C3CCAKT8DH665722
2011 BUICK
1G4GA5EDXBF371618
2007 SATURN
1G8AJ55F07Z201800
2008 AUDI
WAUDF78E18A137346
2020 FORD
1FMCU9G67LUC53664
2004 CADILLAC
3GYFK66N14G285703
1998 JEEP
1J4FJ68S1WL189050
2013 MEIDUO
LFETCKPF2D1170767
1999 BMW
WBAAM5334XFR07236
2008 VOLKSWAGEN
WVWUK73C58P037946
2011 CHEVROLET
1GNKRLED8BJ167299
2009 PONTIAC
1G2ZG57B794162838
2005 MAZDA
1YVHP80D255M21688
2014 CHEVROLET
1G11C5SL3EF106150
2017 MAZDA
JM3KFBDL1H0115975
1985 CHEVROLET
1GCFC24H6FF398334

**To place your classified advertisement in The Eagle call (734) 467-1900.**


AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION

GARRATT & BACHAND, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

74 WEST LONG LAKE ROAD
SUITE 200
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48304
(248) 645-1450 • FAX (248) 645-2311

ROMULUS - SUMPTER

# Romulus gas station accused of price gouging

Operators of the BP gas station on Middlebelt Road in Romulus have until Jan. 8 to respond to a cease-and-desist notice from the office of State Attorney General Dana Nessel alleging overcharging of customers.

The notice, issued last week, alleges that the station near Detroit Metro Airport was charging $1.50 per gallon more than nearby competitors. "The Attorney General's Office has now probable cause to believe the gas station unfairly overcharged consumers more than the typical price for its services in violation of the Michigan Consumer Protection Act," the notice read.

The business was engaging in "unlawful business practices" according to a prepared release from Nessel's office. The notice also alleged the business was taking advantage of the location near the car rental return area of the airport.

According to Nessel's office, the gas station listed regular unleaded gas for $4.74 per gallon, nearly $2 higher per gallon than other nearby gas stations. The discrepancy was documented by a special investigator from the attorney general's office, according to the statement.

> *It is my hope this gas station will take this notice seriously and no further action will be necessary.*

Nessel's office had received complaints from two other consumers about the gas prices at the station.

"If you have additional information that might serve to justify your prices, we are very interested in receiving it," the notice read. "Know, however, that your mere location would not be a satisfactory justification - even if that is (as one of the consumer complaints suggested) the explanation."

"It is my hope this gas station will take this notice seriously and no further action will be necessary," Nessel said. "My office stands ready to investigate reports of businesses that attempt to take advantage of residents, especially during the holiday season."

## Shopping trip

Several children were "arrested" earlier this month as officers from the Romulus Police Department escorted them on the annual Shop with a Cop event. The children and officers searched for perfect gifts for family members at the Walmart in Belleville, where staff members welcomed the students. The annual event is funded each year by donations and fundraisers which help pay for gifts the children would otherwise be unable to afford. Shop with a Cop began decades ago as officers across the country literally passed the hat to collect funding to help deserving families during the holidays.

# SMART bus routes expanded

Traveling to some destinations in Romulus will become easier beginning Jan. 8 when SMART begins new stops in the community.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 8, route 280 Western Wayne will be serving new stops in the downtown Romulus area on weekdays. New key destinations include Romulus Public Library, 34th District Court, Wellesley Apartments, Metro Charter Academy, Romulus High School, Concentra Urgent Care, and Metro Airport Center.

New extended weekday routing will include the regular northbound route to westbound Smith, right Vining, left first turnback to southbound Vining, right Goddard, right Wayne Road, right Ecorse and the regular route past Amazon to Old Redford.

The southbound route will travel on Ecorse past Amazon, left Wayne Road, left Goddard, left Vining, right Smith, regular route to Evans Terminal, according to an official announcement from SMART officials.

Weekday service is available every hour from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. although Saturday and Sunday service does not operate west of Vining, officials said. For more information, visit https://www.smartbus.org/About/News/wayne-expansion-route-280 #Transit #WayneExpansion #SMARTMovesU

# Art entries being accepted by city

The City of Romulus Arts Council is seeking high quality images from artists and photographers for a permanent outdoor public art installation in June 2024. This year, the theme is "Acts of Community Service through Art." The Top Three Artists will win Cash Prizes.

The top prize for first place is $1,000, officials said, while second place will receive a $500 award and the third place winner will receive $250. As many as eight additional artists will receive $50 as winners of honorable mention awards and have their work reproduced and displayed downtown in Romulus. There is an entry fee of $25 for three images.

Checks or money orders which accompany entries should be made payable to: Romulus Arts Council, Inc., 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174. For more information, call (734) 955-4533. Entry forms are available at www.romulusgov.com

Email images and entry forms to: Romulus_arts_council@romulusgov.com

The deadline for submission is April 15, 2024. Winners will be announced before the first Sounds in Downtown concert on Friday, June 14, 2024, during a reception. Artists may display their art for sale at the reception officials said.

# Romulus

FROM PAGE 1

2023 the study also included an optional, qualitative survey. Responses to three open-end questions related to business climate improvement efforts and small business support were evaluated by a panel of reviewers to select the 2023 Honored Communities.

Although accounting for less than 20 percent of state cities and townships, the 277 communities analyzed are home to 71 percent of Michigan's population and 86 percent of the state's commercial property, according to iLabs data.

"Each year, the eCities project aims to highlight the successes and continued commitment of cities and townships to grow business and support entrepreneurship within their communities," said Kari Kowalski, iLabs project manager.

# Death of former Sumpter police chief is mourned

The Sumpter Township Police Department recently extended condolences to the family of former township Chief of Police Clinton Brown, Jr.

Mr. Brown died on Dec. 18, according to information provided by the police department. Mr. Brown's 33 year law enforcement career included 20 years as police chief in Sumpter Township. He served in that capacity from 1978 until his retirement in 1997. He came out of retirement to again serve as township police chief from 2003 until 2004.

Mr. Brown studied at William Penn University after attending high school in Inkster. He was a long-time resident of Belleville, according to data in his biography.

No funeral or interment information was available.

Chief of Police Clinton Brown, Jr

**SUMPTER TOWNSHIP**
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
**REQUEST FOR**
**SITE PLAN AND SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT REVIEW**

The Sumpter Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 at 6:00 pm on Thursday, January 11, 2024, to receive public comment for the following site plan review and special use permit.

NATURE OF THE REQUEST(s)

1) Site plan review of proposed self-serve car wash at 17440 Sumpter Road
2) Special land use approval of proposed self-serve car wash at 17440 Sumpter Road

This Public Hearing has been scheduled in accordance with the requirements of Public Act. 168, Section 9 of 1959 (amendments to the Township Rural Zoning Act. P.A. 184) to provide all interested citizens with an opportunity to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss in detail all aspects of the proposed use.
For those unable to attend the Public Hearing, written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk's Office before the hearing date.

Esther Hurst
Clerk
Sumpter Township

Published: December 28, 2023
Posted: December 19, 2023

ST0167 - 12 28 23 2.5 x 3.094

**CITY OF ROMULUS**
**Planning Commission**
Notice of a Public Hearing
**Sheetz II** (8227 Middlebelt/29225 Smith/Tax ID #80-047-99-0011-701)
WEDNESDAY, **January 17, 2024 - 7:00 pm**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, January 17, 2024 for the purpose of considering the following:

1. RZ-2023-003; **Sheetz II** requesting the rezoning of 0.811 acres of property including the west 73.7' of parcel 80-047-99-0006-702 which is 0.547 acres of Tract 1 (29225 Smith) and the west 140' of parcel 80-047-99-0011-701 which is 0.264 acres of Tract B, from M-T, Industrial Transportation to C-3, Highway Business for the development of a vehicle fueling station with convenience store and drive-through;
2. SLU-2023-010; **Sheetz II** requesting special land use approval for an 8-pump vehicle fueling station for automobiles and small trucks (no tractor trailers) at property located at 8227 Middlebelt; and
3. SLU-2023-011; **Sheetz II** requesting special land use approval for a drive-through restaurant at property located at 8227 Middlebelt.

The public hearing will be held at Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road. A copy of the rezoning and special land use applications are available in the Planning Department during regular business hours - Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Questions and written comments may be addressed to Carol Maise, City Planner, Department of Public Services, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485 or at 734-955-4530.

Publish: 12/28/2023

RM0780 - 122823 2.5 x 3.434

**CITY OF ROMULUS INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB 23/24-03 DEMOLITION OF SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES - DEMO LIST 23-01**
The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified contractors for the demolitions of structures and all required site restoration on the following properties:

**1-story single family residential structure on a slab, 7305 Hollywood**
**1-624 sq ft garage with slab and additional 90 sq ft concrete slab., 37187 Menton**
**1-steel canopy 42' x 50', 10885 Middlebelt Road**
**1-story single family residential structure, wood siding on a 126 sq. ft. crawl space/600 sf. Ft. slab, 11318 Moore**
**1-story, single family residential structure on crawl space,, 36009 Van Born Road**
**2-story, multi-family residential structure on basement, 11010 Whitehorn**

1. Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit a bid must use the forms provided by the City. Official bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the MITN Purchasing Group page of BidNet Direct (http://www.mitn.info/). Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. Copies of documents obtained from any other source are not considered official copies.
2. Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents.
3. Clarifications, modifications, or amendments may be made to this solicitation at the discretion of the City. Any and all addenda issued by the City will be posted on the MITN system. All interested parties are instructed to view the MITN website regularly for any issued addenda. It is the responsibility of the proposer to obtain the available addenda and acknowledge any issued addenda on the Table of Contents for this solicitation, and further submit a printed copy of the addendum attached as part of the required documents for this solicitation
4. A total of two copies (one marked "Original" and one marked "Copy") of the bid must be submitted together in one sealed package/envelope and returned to the City Clerk's Office no later than 2:00 P.M on January 18, 2024. Bids should be addressed using the bid package label provided in the solicitation documents.
5. At approximately 3:00 p.m., local time all timely received bids will be publicly opened and read.
6. Bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty (90) calendar days after the date for submitting bids.
7. The successful Bidder will be required to submit all proof of all insurance required by the solicitation documents and copies of all required endorsements.
8. The successful Bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Payment Bonds each in the full amount of the Contract.
9. The City reserves the right to postpone the opening without notification and also reserves the right to reject all bids and proposals and to waive any minor informality or irregularity in proposals received. Ultimately, a contract may be awarded to the lowest most responsive and responsible company, as determined in the sole discretion of the City of Romulus or otherwise in a manner deemed by the City to be in its own best interest.
10. For additional information contact Gary Harris, City of Romulus, Purchasing Director by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Purchasing@romulusgov.com.
11. The City of Romulus strictly prohibits the reproduction or publishing of any published document or solicitation without the express written consent of the City of Romulus. Unauthorized posting of any notice of these documents or reference to said documents or solicitations is strictly prohibited.

Please Publish: December 28, 2023

RM0779 - 122823 2.5 x 6.094

Inkster - Wayne - Westland

# Westland is awarded 'Safe Streets' federal grant

Wayne, Westland, Garden City, and Inkster have each been awarded $192,000 in federal grant funding to develop and join the Safe Streets for All plan.

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced $817 million from President Joe Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for 385 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grants.

The SS4A program grants go directly to regional, local, and tribal communities for implementation, planning, and demonstration projects driven at the local level to improve safety and help prevent deaths and serious injuries on national roadways. The funds will help communities in the development of road safety action plans and improve unsafe roadway corridors by implementing effective interventions, officials said.

"Our community has experienced too many tragedies from car accidents," said Westland Mayor Kevin Coleman. "I am grateful for the funding coming to Westland from the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. We will be able to use the money to work towards safer roadways and protecting pedestrians in Westland," he added.

"Through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program, we have now announced safety funding going directly to communities representing 70 percent of the people living in this country," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "We are acting to confront the crisis of safety on our nation's roads, helping communities work to reduce traffic deaths to the only acceptable number: zero."

## Retired

Members of the Wayne City Council honored retiring Building and Engineering Director Mike Buiten and Department of Public Works Assistant Director Ed Queen. Buiten began his career with the City of Wayne in 1998 and Assistant Director Queen began his career with the City of Wayne in 1996. Both will officially retire Dec. 31. When presenting them with retirement plaques, Interim City Manager Ryan Strong commented, "Ed and Mike exemplify the term public servant. They both care deeply about this city and helping the folks who live and work here. They will be missed."

## Heroic helpers

Members of the Inkster and Dearborn Heights police departments joined forces earlier this month with a local Target store for a special shopping trip to Target. Selected families from the City of Inkster were accompanied by an officer as they shopped for Christmas gifts. The trip was part of the Heroes & Helpers program which brought each of the families to the store in a parade of police vehicles with flashing lights. Each shopper was able to choose gifts for those on their holiday list with the guidance of one of the police officers who volunteered their time to help with the excursion. The event was funded through donations and fund-raising efforts during the year.

40 YEARS OF
SERVING YOU

EZ STORAGE

Newly opened in Plymouth Township, now serving the residents of Plymouth, Northville & Canton. Our goal is to provide every customer with the secure storage they need and the peace of mind that their belongings are safe and sound.

**Our Services:**

- 100% Indoor & Climate Control
- FREE Local Move-In Truck
- Individual Door Alarms
- Up to 6 Months 50% Off (Limited time offer)

Contact Us

734-354-9610
plymouth@ezmini.com
www.ezmini.com
14415 Sheldon Rd
Plymouth Township, MI 48170

FLOWCODE PRIVACY.FLOWCODE.COM